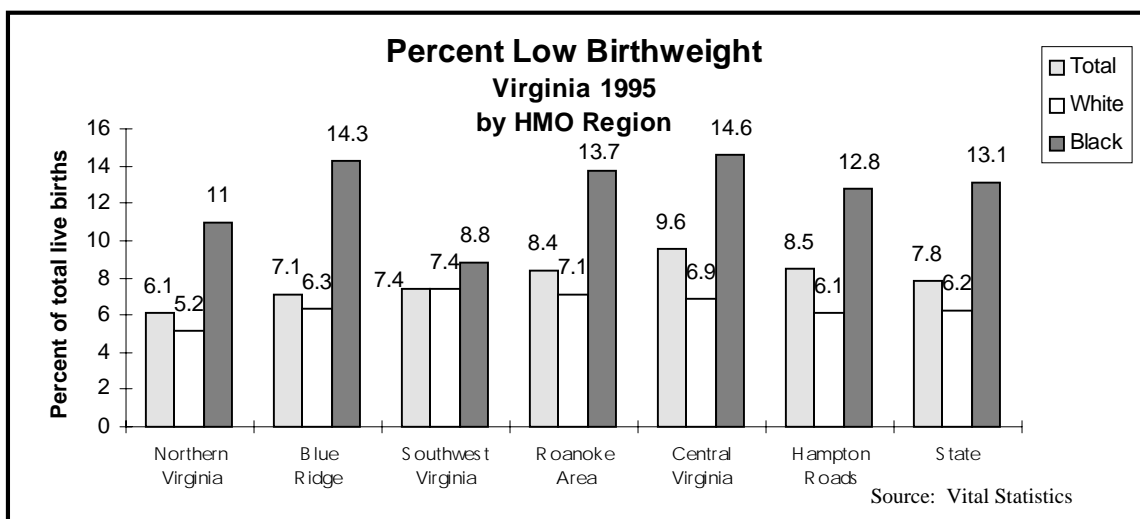
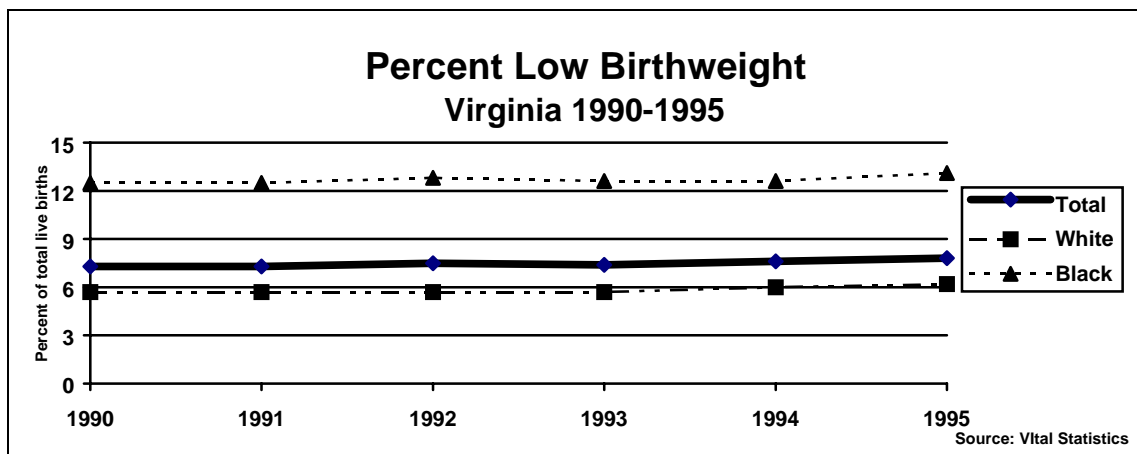


Low Birthweight

Objective: *Reduce low birthweight to an incidence of no more than 5% of live births.*

Low birthweight is an indicator of limited access to health care and a major predictor of infant mortality. It refers to infants weighing less than 2,500 grams or 5½ pounds at birth regardless of the length of the pregnancy. In 1995, 7.8% of the live births in Virginia, or 7,151 infants, began life in this precarious condition. Of these, the percentage of low weight births for blacks (13.1%) was more than double that for whites (6.2%). Many of these newborns, if they survive their first year of life, are highly susceptible to a wide range of disorders, including neuro-developmental disabilities, learning disorders, behavior problems, and lower respiratory tract infections. Reducing the low birthweight rate can result in significant savings in health care costs associated with these conditions, but it will necessitate an emphasis on prevention that focuses on early prenatal care.



**Percent of Low Weight Live Births
by Health District, Virginia 1995**

by Health District, Virginia 1995			Virginia 2000 Objective
FIRST QUARTILE	Loudoun	5.8	5.0%
	Arlington	5.9	
	Prince William	5.9	
	Fairfax	6.0	
	Lord Fairfax	6.4	
	Chesterfield	6.5	
	Alleghany	6.6	
	Mount Rogers	6.6	
	Rappahannock	6.7	
	Alexandria	6.7	
SECOND QUARTILE	Rappahannock/Rapidan	6.9	U.S. 1994 7.3%
	Chesapeake	7.0	
	Virginia Beach	7.2	
	Central Shenandoah	7.2	
	Central Virginia	7.2	Virginia 1995 7.8%
	New River	8.0	
	Henrico	8.1	
	Lenowisco	8.1	
THIRD QUARTILE	Peninsula	8.2	
	Thomas Jefferson	8.3	
	Cumberland Plateau	8.4	
	Hampton	8.5	
	Eastern Shore	8.5	
	Roanoke	8.5	
	Western Tidewater	8.6	
	Three Rivers	8.8	
	Hanover	9.4	
FOURTH QUARTILE	West Piedmont	9.7	
	Southside	9.9	
	Crater	10.1	
	Norfolk	10.5	
	Piedmont	10.5	
	Pittsylvania/Danville	11.7	
	Portsmouth	11.8	
	Richmond	13.8	

**Percent of Low Weight Live Births by Health District
Black Population, Virginia 1995**

FIRST QUARTILE	Cumberland Plateau	7.1	<div>Virginia 2000 Objective</div> <div>5.0%</div> <div>U.S. 1994</div> <div>7.3%</div> <div>Virginia 1995</div> <div>7.8%*</div>
	Alleghany	7.3	
	Lenowisco	7.7	
	Chesterfield	8.3	
	Rappahannock	9.2	
	Mount Rogers	9.3	
	Roanoke	9.7	
	Prince William	9.8	
	Rappahannock/Rapidan	10.8	
SECOND QUARTILE	Arlington	11.1	
	Chesapeake	11.4	
	Eastern Shore	11.5	
	Western Tidewater	11.6	
	Alexandria	11.7	
	Loudoun	11.8	
	Hampton	11.9	
	Fairfax	12.1	
	Virginia Beach	12.4	
THIRD QUARTILE	Peninsula	12.7	
	Crater	13.0	
	West Piedmont	13.1	
	Southside	13.1	
	New River	13.2	
	Norfolk	13.5	
	Three Rivers	13.6	
	Henrico	13.9	
	Central Virginia	14.7	
FOURTH QUARTILE	Hanover	14.7	
	Portsmouth	15.2	
	Piedmont	15.3	
	Central Shenandoah	15.6	
	Lord Fairfax	16.2	
	Richmond	16.9	
	Pittsylvania/Danville	17.3	
	Thomas Jefferson	18.0	

*Based on total population

**Percent of Low Weight Live Births by Health District, White
Population, Virginia 1995**

FIRST QUARTILE	Alexandria	4.5	<div>Virginia 2000 Objective</div> <div>5.0%</div>
	Arlington	4.7	
	Central Virginia	4.9	
	Prince William	5.1	
	Fairfax	5.1	
	Chesapeake	5.2	
	Loudoun	5.4	
	Virginia Beach	5.8	
	Peninsula	5.9	
	Lord Fairfax	5.9	
SECOND QUARTILE	Rappahannock/Rapidan	6.0	<div>U.S. 1994</div> <div>7.3%</div>
	Eastern Shore	6.0	
	Chesterfield	6.2	
	Thomas Jefferson	6.2	
	Hampton	6.2	
	Rappahannock	6.3	
	Western Tidewater	6.3	
	Mount Rogers	6.5	
THIRD QUARTILE	Alleghany	6.6	
	Richmond	6.7	
	Southside	6.8	
	Piedmont	6.8	
	Central Shenandoah	6.9	
	Henrico	7.2	
	Three Rivers	7.2	
	Pittsylvania/Danville	7.2	
	Crater	7.2	
FOURTH QUARTILE	Norfolk	7.5	<div>Virginia 1995</div> <div>7.8%*</div>
	Portsmouth	7.6	
	New River	8.0	
	Roanoke	8.2	
	Lenowisco	8.2	
	Cumberland Plateau	8.4	
	Hanover	8.6	
	West Piedmont	8.8	

*Based on total population